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SENATE

REPORT
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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING A COMMEMORATIVE STRUCTURE WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

SEPTEMBER 19 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 15), 1986.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MCCLURE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 666]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 666), expressing the sense of Congress in support of a commemorative structure within the National Park System dedicated to the promotion of understanding, knowledge, opportunity and equality for all people, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

H.J. Res. 666, as reported, expresses the sense of the Congress that the National Council on Economic and Educational Development (NCEED) should be supported in its efforts to raise an endowment to assure a permanent location of a commemorative structure within the National Park System or on other Federal lands dedicated to understanding, knowledge, opportunity and equality for all people.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The NCEED is a nonprofit, charitable, and educational organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. The Council was established to: (1) examine the economic, constitutional, legal and social conditions and ramifications of slavery; (2) to study the history of Afro-Americans; (3) to promote education and understanding among all people of the American slave experience and its role in

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the history of the United States; and (4) to eliminate the barriers of every kind and nature to learning and opportunity faced by disadvantaged children of all races.

If the resolution is approved, the NCEED will begin to raise funds to make the necessary studies and to develop the plans that will be needed to establish the permanent commemorative structure. As envisioned, the commemorative structure will be privately funded.

The Committee notes that H.J. Res. 666 does not provide Congressional authorization for the establishment of a commemorative structure on Park System or other Federal lands. An additional act of Congress will be required for this purpose.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

H.J. Res. 666 passed the House of Representatives on June 26, 1986. The Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation Subcommittee held a hearing on the resolution on July 31, 1986.

At a business meeting on September 17, 1986, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered H.J. Res. 666 favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on September 17, 1986, by unanimous voice vote of a quorum present recommends that the Senate pass H.J. Res. 666 without amendment.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committe makes the flowing evalution of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out H.J. Res. 666. The resolution is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would not no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of H.J. Res. 666, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The pertinent legislative report received by the Committee from the Department of the Interior setting forth executive agency recommendations relating to H.J. Res. 666 is set forth below:

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, August 14, 1986.

Hon. JAMES A. MCCLURE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This responds to your request for our views on H.J. Res. 666, "Expressing the sense of Congress in support of a commemorative structure within the National Park System dedicated to the promotion of understanding, knowledge, opportunity and equality for all people."

We strongly support the enactment of H.J. Res. 666.

H.J. Res. 666 passed the House of Representatives on June 26, 1986. The joint resolution would express the sense of Congress that the National Council for Education and Economic Development, Incorporated, is deserving of encouragement and support of the American people in its program to raise and endownment to assure a permenent location of a commemorative structure within the National Park System or on other Federal lands, dedicated to understanding, knowledge, opportunity and equality for all people.

We endorse this commemorative project. We understand that the interpretive programs of the National Council would be developed jointly with the programs of the National Park Service. We believe that such cooperation will strengthen our own interpretive programs in order to tell the full story of the richness and diversity of America's natural and cultural heritage, and the important role that Afro-Americans played in the development of the United States.

This legislation would not authorize construction or set aside land for a building. Separate legislation would be necessary to authorize such a structure. We understand that the commemorative structure would be privately funded and would consist of a museum and cultural center to provide scholars with an opportunity for research, and visitors of all ages, races, and nationalities an opportunity to learn an important, but often ignoreed, chapter in our Nation's history.

In this connection, the project would be similar to the proposed National Center for the Study of Afro-American History and Culture, which is proposed to be develoepd in Wilberforce, Ohio. A Federal commission to plan the construction and operation of that center was created by Title II of the Act approved October 10, 1980. The commission was authorize to accquire property in Wilberforce for the headquarters of the center, and we understand that plans are underway for its acquisition, development, and operation. The Secretary of the Interior is represented on the commission by Charlotte Brooks Spann, the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantage Business Utilization in the Office of the Secretary.

Plans are also being made by the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Commission for a museum of American Ethnic Culture in connection with development of the East Saint Louis Waterfront. Subsection 8(b) of the Act of May 17, 1954, as amended by the Act of August 24, 1984, directed the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Commission to include a study by the National Park

Service on the feasibility of a Museum of American Ethnic Culture as part of this commission's plans for East Saint Louis. The National Park Service will obligate $50,000 in this fiscal year for a contract in connection with the study of this proposed museum. The museum will include elements of African American history and culture, and will therefore be similar to the museum contemplated in H.J. Res. 666.

We believe the encouragement of plans to develop a separate museum and cultural center on National Park System or other Federal lands, as a private initiative, is appropriate, and we therefore strongly support the enactment of H.J. Res. 666.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

P. DANIEL SMITH,
Deputy Assistant Secretary.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the resolution, H.J. Res. 666, as reported.

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